

REMARKS

Summary

In this Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,213,273 issued to Linnerz. Additionally, claims 6-11 have been allowed, and claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims but allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, claims 1, 2, and 5 have been cancelled *without prejudice*. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form (and claim 4 depends from rewritten claim 3). These amendments have not been entered to overcome prior art; rather, claims 3 and 4 now stand exactly as they were previously submitted in the last response, except claim 3 now stands in independent form and claim 4 depends therefrom.

Accordingly, claims 3-4 and 6-11 are all in a condition for allowance.

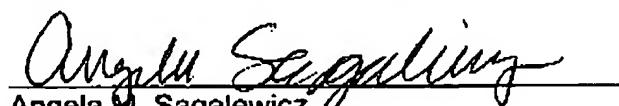
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition of allowance. Thus, entry of the offered amendments and early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 4-13-06


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Attorney Docket No. 067668-136874
Application No. 10/804,781

IPN: P010